

FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM OF ISRAEL

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1) THE FARM.

("Mivrak")

The Agricultural Training Farm in Jerusalem, the last target of Arab fire, is situated within a zone protected by the International Red Cross; so is the former High Commissioner's residence, from which the fire was directed.

A lesson is to be drawn from this incident.

In the course of a whole generation many Jews earnestly believed that training farms could be established under the protection of foreign bayonets and that the whole of Eretz-Israel could have been successfully turned into a gigantic model training farm for "good children", who will be safe from attack by virtue of being good farmers as well as law-abiding citizens, obedient to foreign rule. The truth that a Jewish farm could not exist in a close proximity to the High Commissioner's palace has had to be learned at the cost of blood.

It is immaterial, who is actually in the possession of the palace; so long as it is not occupied by us, the Farm is merely a forward position between Talpith and it.

The logic that demonstrates the inherent folly of the notion that our farms could exist safely under the protection of the mandate, is equally applicable to the State of the Plain. As long as the Jewish rule does not spread over the whole of the homeland, as long as a considerable portion of it is in foreign hands, the position of the State of Israel is as precarious as that of the Agricultural Training Farm near the Commissioner's palace. As long as there remain palaces not in our hands, we cannot afford to be "good children". The International Red

Cross, that permitted Arab forces to occupy the palace, will likewise deliver into their hands everything that we may entrust to its care and responsibility. The same goes for every form of international administration. The same goes for the date of termination of the truce, which Mr. Shertok asked the Security Council to determine. So long as the decision does not rest with us it is in the position of the High Commissioner's palace: ostensibly in the hands of an international body, its fate will be decided by the Arabs.

The warnings issued by representatives of the United States and Canada against any party that would break the truce, have the same value as the Red Cross flag over the Commissioner's palace: though issued to both sides, they mean only us.

We must not permit ourselves to be scared by these threats; they will be never realised. But we have to take timely precautions to safeguard our State Farm of Israel, and there can be no adequate safeguarding it as long as vantage points are in the hands of the U.N.O. or the Red Cross.

The Arabs know what they want, but have not the strength to get it.

We have the strength, but are not quite sure about what we really want.

2) NO TIME LIKE NOW.

(Broadcast 19.8.48.)

The Security Council is again grappling the Palestine problem. Delegates of the United States and Canada issued severe warnings, threatening with sanctions any party that would end the truce. In view of the scale and number of truce violations since its coming into force, the warning seems to be somewhat belated. If all Arab attacks, movements of their troops etc. have in the past failed to produce any reaction from the United Nations Organisation and its member-states, then what in the world had at last moved the two above-named countries to take their step? It is a safe guess that a disquieting rumour had reached them, the rumour that the Jews had finally made up their mind and were about to solve the problem once for all by force of arms.

The United States of Messrs. Truman & Marshall is very apprehensive of a possible renewal of hostilities, as they may lead to the whole of the country being seized by the Jews.

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It would prefer to see a small Jewish state, living in a never-ceasing fear of aggression from its truculent neighbours and seeking protection (at the price of independence) of Uncle Sam. But what the United States is interested most in, is the continuation of the truce itself. The truce provides it with an excellent opportunity to establish here its effective military control under the guise of the Truce Observation Commission. The end of the truce will place the United States before the dilemma of either withdrawing from the country, or taking the course of a direct military occupation of it, with all risks and dangers attendant. Therefore it gives its full backing to the truce, that threatens to crush the young state by the staggering load of prolonged war expenditure without war, in the hope that the enfeebled Israel will be forced to accept American financial aid (at the creditor's terms of course) and become more tractable on the matter of frontiers.

The object of the U. S. - Canadian threat is clear, but it should not be taken too seriously. The American imperialism has not yet reached the stage of imposing its will by sheer force. Only yesterday we were told by Mr. Newman of the heavy pressure applied by the United States in order to prevent the establishment of the State of Israel on 15th May. President Truman even offered his private plane to take to Tel-Aviv a special envoy to that end. But in spite of this pressure the State of Israel came into being. The United States hastened then to grant it its recognition. The American public opinion is still firmly opposed to sending troops abroad in general, and to Palestine in particular, and is largely favourable to the new state.

The only conclusion we can draw from the U. S. - Canadian threat is that the sooner we put an end to the truce and occupy the rest of the country the better. The moment when one imperialist power is withdrawing and another is not yet bold enough to move into its place is, indeed, a golden opportunity.

3) IN MEMORIAM - LUCIEN FRANCO.

By Gabriel.

Lucien Franco has passed away and the Resistance Movement of old has lost a true friend. He was never the modern conception of the dashing, superficial newshawk, but he had a deep, sincere understanding of the spirit of the Jewish people - an understanding seldom found in one of the Christian faith. We regarded Lucien as our friend, for during the past three years in Jerusalem - years of trial, hardship and danger - he never hesitated to show his

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friendship for us, bravely in a sea of opposition never failed to reveal the truth and give credit where it was due.

At a time when most foreign newspapermen played the role dictated to them by the British Administration, surrendered their principles on the altar of opportunism, and joined in the chorus of condemnation of the Hebrew Underground, Lucien Franc preserved his independence of mind and soul and never faltered though discriminated against by the British authorities for his honesty.

Lucien Franc saw in his work not only the mundane process of flashing news, but regarded it as his duty to convey to the civilised world the beliefs and the spirit of Fighting Israel. He did not fear and the British terror did not deter him from meeting with Jewish patriots hunted by the armed forces of the occupying power.

Lucien Franc loved Jerusalem and his numerous friends in Jerusalem loved him. He was the epitome of decency and symbolised the real spirit of liberty-loving France.

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